ALNWICK RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1969

ALNWICK RURAL DISTRICT

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1969

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1969

To the Chairman and Members of the Alnwick Rural District Council

Vital Statistics The estimated mid-year population was 12,080 which showed a fall of 280 persons from the estimated number in 1968. The numbers of births and deaths were equal at 170 so that the operative factor in this fall can only have been outward migration.

The number of births in the period 1960-1969 were:-

	Male	Female	Total		Male	Female	Total
1960	112	112	224	1965	120	98	218
1961	103	98	201	1966	78	94	172
1962	113	88	201	1967	94	102	196
1963	108	112	220	1968	89	96	185
1964	92	91	183	1969	82	88	170
					991	979	1970

The average number of births is just under 200 per annum for the ten year period but the last four years show evidence of a progressive decline in the numbers. This is in accord with the national trend but here the peak birth rate was in 1964. The adjusted birth rate for the District in 1969 was 16.1 compared to 16.3 for England and Wales.

As will be seen the numbers of male and female births are very similar and the ratio of male/female births in 101/100. This differs from the ratio for England and Wales which is 106/100 and which has resulted nationally in there being an excess of males to females in all age groups up to forty.

The crude death rate was 14.1 in 1969 and the adjusted rate 11.8 which compared with 11.9 for England and Wales.

The main causes of death did not vary in significant proportions from those for England and Wales.

Immunisation The acceptance rates for primary immunisation of infants were slightly lower than in 1968 and cannot be considered altogether satisfactory. These rates are below the national ones. It is surprising that there should be a big drop in the proportion of infants vaccinated against poliomyelitis - 72% in 1968 but only 47% in 1969. This vaccine is easily given by mouth, causes no bodily disturbance, and offers almost certain protection. It is usually given at the same time as inoculation against diphtheria etc.

Infectious Diseases The outbreak of infective hepatitis was discussed in detail in the report for 1968 which gave the position up to mid-1969. There were 111 cases notified in the District during the course of the outbreak and of these 50 were 1968, 45 in 1969, and 16 in 1970. At the time of writing there have been no cases notified since mid-May 1970. Both the first and last cases occurred in Shilbottle - the first in January 1968 and the last in May 1970. However, the last case in Shilbottle occurred 5½ months after the penultimate one and should probably be considered a separate incident. The other places mainly affected were Warkworth and North Broomhill apart from neighbouring Alnwick and Amble.

No cases of food poisoning were notified in the population. Information was received from the Divisional Veterinary Officer about 11 farms where livestock were infected by Salmonellae - 8 S. dublin, 2 S. typhimurium, and 1 S. bredeney - but no farm staff or families were involved.

One case of brucellosis occurred in a farmer and arrangements were made for milk produced on the farm to be pasteurised. However, subsequent examination of the herd proved negative and the source of the infection is not known.

A case of dysentery was reported in a child but this had been contracted abroad.

Mussel Poisoning This was reported in detail in the 1968 report. Mussels on the coast were again affected with the plankton neurotoxin and warning notices remained up on the Coquet estuary. This appears to be a regular occurrence in the early summer months although it is probable that the high levels of toxicity of 1968 were unusual - maximum levels in 1969 and 1970 have been only one tenth of those reached during 1968. Routine testing continues to be undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food, and regular reports are received.

Sewage Disposal Progress continues to be made but is complicated by the considerable area, long coastline, and many small but no concentrated focus of habitation. The agreement to build a combined scheme for Warkworth and Amble is sensible and welcome because it not only reduces capital and running costs but also keeps the estuary free from effluent,

Old People's Housing The views of old people themselves are often not heard in this matter and those expressed at a recent meeting of representatives of Over-60 Clubs in North Northumberland are of interest. These indicated that they would prefer old people's housing schemes where they could have "peace and quiet"; they would like two bedrooms (one for visitors) in early retirement and single bedroomed housing in the later seventies and eighties; they would accept that this involved two removals and would be prepared to undergo this; they would like central heating but were worried about possible increased cost; and they would prefer showers as opposed to baths.

The warden scheme at Shilbottle will be beneficial not only to the old people who will benefit from it but also in that it should release some larger houses for younger and bigger families.

Ian G.P. Fraser

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the district was 92,964 acres.

The number of inhabited houses was 4,304 and the number of new houses completed during the year was 25.

The estimated mid-year population was 12,080 and this figure was taken when calculating the Birth and Death Rate.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	80	82	162
Illegitimate	2	6	8
	82	88	170

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	14.1
Crude Birth Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor (1.14)	16.1
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	5.0

Stillbirths			
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	1	1
	-	2	2

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	12.0
Total live and still births	172

Infant Deaths (Deaths under one year)			
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	1	1
	1	2	3

Infant Mortality Rates	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	18
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	12
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	125

Neo-natal Mortality Rate	
Deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births	12

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate	
Deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births	12

Perinatal Mortality Rate

Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births	23.0

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of Deaths	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	-

Deaths

Males	Females	Total
97	73	170

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	14.1
Crude Death Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor (0.84)	11.8

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Males	Females	Total
Malignant Neoplasm - Oesphagus	3	-	3
Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases	1	-	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	2	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm - Intestine	4	2	6
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	8	-	8
Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm - Prostate	6	-	6
Leukaemia	-	1	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	4	2	6
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	1	-	1
Diabetes Mellitus	-	2	2
Anaemias	-	1	1
Mental Disorders	-	2	2
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	1	1
Hypertensive Disease	2	-	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease	24	16	40
Other forms of HeartDisease	6	9	15
Cerebrovascular Disease	17	16	33
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4	4	8
Pneumonia	3	2	5
Bronchitis and Emphysema	3	1	4
Asthma	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	1	2
Peptic Ulcer	1	1	2
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	3	3
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	2	-	2
Congenital Anomalies	-	1	1
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	-	1	1
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	1	1	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	1	1
All other Accidents	1	3	4
Totals	97	73	170

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	4
Measles	3
Infective Hepatitis	45

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-65	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

IMMUNISATION

NORTH NO. 2 AREA

Disease	Primary Immunisation			Reinforcing Doses		
	Under 4	4-15	Total	Under 4	4-15	Total
Diphtheria	273	8	281	200	359	559
Whooping Cough	272	8	280	122	88	210
Tetanus	273	17	290	202	425	627
Polio	203	5	208	185	349	534
Measles	190	109	299	-	-	-

	Primary Vaccination			Revaccination		
	Under 5	5-15	Total	Under 5	5-15	Total
Smallpox	267	15	282	4	18	22

There were 428 live births in the area during 1969 and the number of primary immunisations of children under 4 years of age (smallpox-under 5 years have been expressed as percentages of this figure.

Diphtheria	-	64%
Whooping Cough	-	64%
Tetanus	-	64%
Polio	-	47%
Smallpox	-	62%

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis

Alnwick U.D.	142
Alnwick R.D.	75
Amble U.D.	-
Rothbury R.D.	18
Totals	235

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1969.

To the Chairman and Members of the Alnwick Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit herewith, for your consideration, my fifteenth Annual Report regarding statistics of the District and give hereunder a few brief comments.

Complaints regarding water supply are now received infrequently as the supply throughout the District is kept under strict supervision by Mr. Little and his staff at the local office of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company with whom we have the utmost co-operation. Private well supplies are slowly being integrated into the water mains.

The approved Sewerage Schemes being built are progressing slowly. Schemes for villages which are emitting gross sewage pollution either into the sea or ditches, for example at Warkworth, Glanton, Newton by the Sea, etc., would appear to be at a standstill, considering the period of time that has elapsed since they were first considered.

There has been a slight increase in the number of Grant Aids towards sub-standard housing but I would like to see owners of property making much greater use of these improved Grants. A rough calculation reveals that there are about 400 sub-standard houses, including a large number at Radcliffe. If one deducts the houses in this village, alongwith houses which will probably be condemned, there should be in the region of 250 houses that could receive the benefit of modernisation under either the Discretionary or Standard Grants.

The Cleansing Service remains the same as last year except that the older vehicles are becoming so unroadworthy that they must be rendered obsolete at the end of the licencing year in December. In place of the two 10 cubic yard side loaders I would suggest a 35 cubic yard Shelvoke and Drewry Pakamatic, which is a modern, large vehicle more in keeping with the amount of refuse now being collected. This will reduce the number of vehicles to three and new lifting schedules will again have to be implemented throughout the whole of the area. During the past ten years there have been five changes in Lifting Schedules all of which absorbs a lot on one's time in re-organisation. Looking into the future when the amalgamated Service becomes operable one can visualise another two changes in the collection rotas until a final settlement of routes is decided for town and country collections.

All previous small tips scattered throughout the District have been abandoned and tipping is now confined to Embleton Quarry and a small tip at Glanton. A Drott Track Shovel and a wheeled Tractor Loader are now in operation on the tips. It is noticeable that complaints have decreased considerably since acquiring these tractors and reducing the number of tips.

Preliminary discussions have taken place between officials and councillors regarding the amalgamation of the Cleansing Services for Alnwick Rural District and Alnwick Urban District Councils.

In conclusion I would like to thank all Councillors, Medical Officer of Health and colleagues in the office who have assisted me during the year and in particular Mr. Sisterson, Pests Officer.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

J.A. STAIG, M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspector

SECTION 1

PUBLIC HEALTH

Sanitary Circumstances

TOTAL VISITS DURING YEAR RE:-	TOTAL VISITS
Houses - Housing Defects (S. 39, 45, 47, 56, 58, 92, 138)	43
Houses - Other nuisances (S. 39, 50, 75, 83A 83B 92B, 92C, 92D)	18
PUBLIC HEALTH ACT	
Section 39, Drainage, Cesspools, etc.	107
Section 50, Cesspools - nuisances	7
Section 73, Trade Refuse	6
Section 75, Dustbins	8
Section 83A Filthy Premises	15
Section 87, Public Conveniences	47
STATUTORY NUISANCES	
Section 92 (a) Animals	8
Section 92 (b) Accumulations etc.	3
Section 138 Water Supply	2
PART V	
Infectious Diseases	25
Section 259 Watercourses, ditches, etc.	5
Section 268 Tents, Vans, Sheds	9
FOOD AND DRUGS	
Butchers	9
Ice Cream	2
Meat Preparation Rooms	9
Public Houses, Inns, Hotels, etc.	16
Restaurants, Cafes	12
Kippering Sheds	2
MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION	
Shops etc.	11
Slaughterhouses	485

	TOTAL VISITS
MISCELLANEOUS	5
LITTER BINS	8
PETROLEUM	17
CARAVAN SITES	32
INTERVIEWS	141
FACTORIES	
Mechanical	21
Non Mechanical	4
Workplaces	3
PEST CONTROL	
Local Authority Premises	1
Dwellinghouses	6
Business Premises	2
CLEANSING SERVICE	
Collection	35
Disposal (Tips etc.)	127
HOUSING ACT 1936/57	
Demolitions (Section 16)	29
Clearance Area (Section 42)	9

S E C T I O N 2

FOOD AND DRUGS

Licences or Registrations

Slaughterhouses	4
Slaughtermen	20
Ice Cream Premises	48

Food Inspection

		TINS
Section 9	Canned Foods	740
	Meat	110
	Milk	35

SECTION 3

HOUSING

General

Total Number of Houses in District	4,304
New Houses (1969) - Local Authority	10
New Houses (1969) - Other Housing Authorities	-
New Houses (1969) - Private Persons	15
Total Number of Council Houses to date	859

Unfit Housing

Total Number demolished 1969	38
Total Number Unfit Houses on List	33
Total Number Repaired by Informal Action	37
Total Number Demolition Orders Revoked	-

Discretionary Grants 1969

1.	Applications submitted to Local Authority (1969)		23
2.	Applications rejected		9
3.	Applications approved		14
4.	Approximate Average Grant	Pre 1969	£390
		Ante 1969	£773
5.	Total number approved since inception of scheme		504
6.	Hill Farming and Livestock Rearing Act 1946-54 for 1969		-

Standard Grants 1969

	1969	To Date
Number of Houses Grant Aided	22	306
Number of Houses provided with Bath or Shower	18	237
Number of Houses provided with Wash Hand Basin	18	261
Number of Houses provided with Hot Water Supply	17	222
Number of Houses provided with Water Closet	18	270
Number of Houses provided with Food Store	17	197

SECTION 4

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

(a) Registrations and General Inspections (1969)

Class of Premises	No. Registered During Year	Total No. Registered at End of Year	No. of Registered Premises receiving General Inspection
Offices	6	10	-
Shops	Nil	28	20
Wholesale Shops	Nil	Nil	-
Catering establishments	Nil	15	9
Fuel Storage Depots	Nil	1	-

Number of visits of all kinds to registered premises - 29

(b) Analysis of Persons in Registered Premises

Class of Workplace	No. of Persons Employed
Offices	17
Shops	91
Wholesale Shops	Nil
Catering Establishments	83
Fuel Storage Depots	4
Total	195
Males	69
Females	126

SECTION 5

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1969

	Type of Property	
	Non Agricultural	Agricultural
1. No. of Houses in district	3,492	812
2. (a) Total number of houses (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	311	8
(b) Number infested by:		
(i) Rats	132	6
(ii) Mice	11	2
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification.	60	230
(b) Number infested by:		
(i) Rats	17	51
(ii) Mice	-	17

SECTION 6

MEAT

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	480	-	7	1165	319
Number Inspected	480	-	7	1165	319
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci Whole carcases condemned	2	-	-	7	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	133	-	-	109	44
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than cysticerci and Tuberculosis	36.5%	-	-	10%	4.5%
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
Cysticercosis - Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and Totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Meat Condemned During 1969

Disease or Condition	Whole Carcases				Parts or Organs				Weight in lbs.
	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Calves	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Calves	
Abscesses					3		8		95
Actinomycosis					2				28
Bruising	1				4		6		655
Cirrhosis					31				310
Erysipelas			1						98
Emaction		5							210
Fascioliasis					87	27	6		969
Fever		2							71
Parasites					6	35	9		92
Pneumonia			1			47	15		147
Peritonitis	1								570
Total	2	7	2	-	133	109	44		3245

Tuberculosis, Cysterci and Other Diseases

Years 1967 to 1969

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. Killed 1967	666	-	2	2,140	361
No. Killed 1968	451	-	4	1,713	367
No. Killed 1969	480	-	7	1,165	319
No. Inspected 1967	666	-	2	2,140	361
No. Inspected 1968	451	-	4	1,713	367
No. Inspected 1969	480	-	7	1,165	319
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci 1967	30.0	-	100.0	3.5	12.0
1968	32.0	-	50.0	6.0	13.0
1969	36.5	-	-	10.0	4.5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis 1967	-	-	-	-	-
1968	-	-	-	-	-
1969	-	-	-	-	-
Cysticercosis carcases of which some part or organ was condemned 1967	-	-	-	-	-
1968	-	-	-	-	-
1969	-	-	-	-	-

SECTION 7

WATER SAMPLING

Classification of Supplies

		Public Supplies
Class 1	Excellent	45
Class 2	Satisfactory	1
Class 3	Suspicious	-
Class 4	Unsatisfactory	1
	Total Number of Samples	47

SECTION 8

CARAVAN SITES ACT

Sites for Single Caravans	6
Sites for 2 to 5 Caravans	7
Sites for 6 to 14 Caravans	7
Sites for 15 and over Caravans	7
Total Licensed Sites	27

SECTION 9

CLEANSING SERVICE

Staff	10
Vehicles (Rear Loading - Dual Tip: 12 cu.yds.)	2
(Side Loading: 10 cu.yds.)	2
(Side Loading: 7 cu.yds. spare)	1
(40 BHP Diesel Engine Tractor)	1
Districts	3
Refuse Tips	2

SECTION 10

MISCELLANEOUS

Number of Public Conveniences	6
Number of Part-Time Caretakers	6
Licensed Petroleum Installations	89

SECTION 11

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

Part 1 of the Act

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	3	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	39	21	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	4	-	-
Total	48	32	-	-

Number of Outworkers - Nil